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SKATING ON THE PARK.

Skimming o'er the streamlet,
Gliding o'er the pond,
Flitting o'er ice rivers,
This is quite beyond
Delightful enjoyment,
Really! is nice,
Quite exceeds description;
Skating on the ice,

Here the old and youthful
Meet on common ground,
Here the ugly and handsome
Evermore are found;
Here no fashion's fairest,
Richest gems abound;
Sober life in the ring
In the merry round.

Clasping little fingers
Of a fair maid
How the pressure lingers
Upon tingling taste;
Casting loving glances
Wealth the moonbeam's light.
Hush him up, oh maiden
The romantic plight.

Gentlemen in beaver
Skating sweep along
In pursuit of order
Dashing city belle,
Who with airs and grace,
Fidgeting are not
Slackening on her pace
To take his proffered arm.

"Oh! how smooth the ice is,
Mind if I skate?" it is!"
"Never! sir, my arm one,
I am at your call"
This no sooner spoken
Is love's tender lamp,
Than the ice is broken,
A gallant she owns.

Then comes Mistress Shoddy
On her ribbed skates,
Circle beside "nobody"
Here are worth the mates.
Next, a jeweled dandy,
Spiritual a moustache
Evidently handy
To cut a lofty dash.

Here, a la "spread eagle,"
Lies a prostrate form,
While his hands to behold it,
Willing hearts so warm;
Further on the old matron,
Would the gallant swains
Be with rich to marry
Who such tender pains?

Ticklish strapping skates on,
Rolling frozen toes,
Hitting time and platter
On a brown nose.
Spitting rainbow neck ties,
Setting fancy caps,
Fastening dress improvement,
Adjusting all mishaps.

There are little side scenes
Kept from ladies' eyes;
Could she see her sweet
It would cause surprise;
Tippling in the bar room,
Swearing at the cold,
Critically rude in
In a manner bold.

Never mind such drawbacks,
Never mind the row,
Whether's at the bottom
To close at any cost:
If, by chance, you stumble
Tumble up again.
You must never grumble
At your share of pain.

Skimming o'er the surface
Just as skimming stone,
Hand in hand we're gliding,
Side by side we pass
Time flies very swiftly,
It is arte of fun,
Really it is delightful—
Skating on the park.

NO BABY IN THE HOUSE.

No baby in the house, I know—
'Tis far too nice and clean:
No toys by careless fingers strewn
Upon the floor are seen.

No finger marks are on the panes,
No scratches on the chairs,
No wooden toys to break my toes,
Or marshalled off in pairs;
No little stockings to be darned,
All ragged at the toes;
No pile of mending to be done,
Made up of baby-clothes.
No little troubles to be soothed,
No little hands to fold,
No grimy fingers to be washed,
No stories to be told.
No tender kisses to be given,
No sticky lips to meet,
No merry frolics after tea—
No baby in the house.

THE GOLDEN RULE.

Sermon Preached by Rev. Wm. Preston, D. D., Pastor of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh.

TEXT.—Therefore, all things whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.—Matthew 7:12.

Mankind regulate their conduct towards each other by one of two general rules. The first may be expressed in the language: Do unto others as they do unto you. This is a mere selfishness. It has for its object to secure our own interests without regard to the interests and happiness of others. Where injured, therefore in the law it restrains the practices found deceiving or defrauding others. If oppressed by the arm of power and the oppressor is above its reach, it resignedly submits upon others' wrongs and yields to the weaker. The evil done to others is not necessarily inclined to know who have injured us, but as we have suffered injustice, the law is to avenge ourselves of the wrong by doing wrong whenever it has the opportunity. Its language is: "Whatever you have a right to do, says one, it meets me in a thousand forms. I am defrauded in the transactions of business. Every possible advantage is taken of my ignorance, weakness or inexperience. The only fear of men seems to be the only restraints upon fraud and violence, so that in society, he may be said to be the wisest who is by its laws in power or skillful deception is commonly regarded as the most successful and happiest of men. And now, shall I sit down and passively become the prey of others? Shall I not, in some way or by some possible retaliation? Is it a more than a reasonable law to meet others as they meet us with their own weapons? Do they not deserve it? This we ever submit to the world. selfish. unless we sometimes act upon this principle: Though we never go beyond the law of self-defense or selfishness, it is most certainly opposed to the will of God. Love to man is as positively enjoined as love to God. If the first is a great commandment, the second, love to man, is like unto it. If God had dealt with us upon the selfish principle of mere justice, or even strict justice, then where were hope? Imagination would have failed to picture the depths of our perdition. We have sinned, and nothing but the Divine law of love could have spared us from the fate so great a violation. But whence came all the lamentation and woe of this fallen world? Whence all the wars and murders and incendiarisms; its extortion, robbery and fraud; its oppression and strife—its ever-rising evil word and work between man and man? Come they not all from these selfish principles, that men, regardless of their own interests, without regard to the rights and happiness of others? Are they not all the natural and necessary fruit of the maxim to meet men after the rule and yet deprave others by a wicked example. None else is the law of the world but of equity or even justice, then where were hope? Imagination would have failed to picture the depths of our perdition.

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Second. Another excellence of this rule is its comprehension. The second table of the Law and the Prophets is but a summary of all the duties we owe to fellow men. The principle of love is expressed in the commandment of the second table of the moral law. Would you be loved, honored and obeyed by your children? Then you are enjoined the obligations of the fifth commandment. "Honor thy father and mother." Would you be sure that your husband should do unto us and we have at once the measure and the rule of our obligations towards them. Would you desire that others should regard you with kindness, benevolence and love, and extend to you instruction upon your motives, words and actions? Would you that they should regard you as humane, and gently even with your faults for none of us are without them; and lead you so far as they have an influence in ways of virtue, righteousness and peace? Then have you by this very decision and desire determined the measure of your obligations towards them. On the other hand, are you displeased when your name and character are traduced by slander and your reputation injured by evil speaking without a cause, when your business, your property and your health, and all an uncharitable construction put upon your motives, words or conduct? Do you feel wounded by the groundless suspicions and jealousies of others and by their misrepresentations of your words and actions? Are you hurt by their disregard for your feelings? Are you still further displeased when you find your virtues, your ignorance, defraud you in business, deceive you in words, and appear ready to take advantage, or to triumph in your sufferings? Here, also, you have measured your own conduct towards others. You have no right to speak and judge of others as you are unwilling that they should speak and judge of you. You have no right to do to others that which you would be wrong if done toward you. If you would that God or man should deal kindly and forbearingly with you—would you crave sympathy and loving kindness in the midst of sickness, infirmity, distress, or of an ignorant of the Go pel, you were perishing in superstition or in sin, would you suffer one to pass by and leave you a blessing by sending you the glad tidings of salvation. This is one of the noblest traits in the character of a Christian. He is not content with doing nothing wrong whenever it has the opportunity. Its language is: "Whatever you have a right to do, says one, it meets me in a thousand forms. I am defrauded in the transactions of business. Every possible advantage is taken of my ignorance, weakness or inexperience. The only fear of men seems to be the only restraints upon fraud and violence, so that in society, he may be said to be the wisest who is by its laws in power or skillful deception is commonly regarded as the most successful and happiest of men. And now, shall I sit down and passively become the prey of others? Shall I not, in some way or by some possible retaliation? Is it a more than a reasonable law to meet others as they meet us with their own weapons? Do they not deserve it? This we ever submit to the world. selfish. unless we sometimes act upon this principle: Though we never go beyond the law of self-defense or selfishness, it is most certainly opposed to the will of God. Love to man is as positively enjoined as love to God. If the first is a great commandment, the second, love to man, is like unto it. If God had dealt with us upon the selfish principle of mere justice, or even strict justice, then where were hope? Imagination would have failed to picture the depths of our perdition.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1866.

CHRISTMAS SUPPLEMENT.

On Saturday Morning, Dec. 22.

WILL BE ISSUED

THE COMMERCIAL SUPPLEMENT FOR CHRISTMAS,

CONTAINING

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STORIES IN PROSE AND VERSE.

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THE SENATORIAL QUESTION.

A friend has sent us a slip cut from a paper published in the eastern part of the State—it being a quotation from a communication in favor of Simon Cameron—which, while entertaining other views ourselves, we admitted into our columns—so printed and credited as to make it appear to those who do not know that it is a fraud, that the COMMERCIAL is warmly in favor of Mr. CAMERON for United States Senator. To say the least, the fraud—entirely characteristic though it may be—argues a degree of desperation inconsistent with the hope of success through fair or even through foul means.

Though decided, we design not to be offensively partizan on the Senatorial question. We prefer Governor Curtin. We have said this,—and we have given it as our opinion, that the contest being between Gov. CURTIN and Gen. CAMERON—that is, no western man being conspicuous—the Republicans of Allegheny county and Western Pennsylvania are decidedly for Governor CURTIN. Since we said this, we have had no occasion to change our mind; on the contrary, we have been strengthened in this view of the case.

We design to be entirely fair towards all the candidates, and do not intend that any one of them or his friends shall deliberately misrepresent us. If it is of any consequence how we stand—and the fraud referred to argues that the friends of Gen. CAMERON think it is—we do not intend that our position shall be falsely stated, as is being done in many parts of the State, in the way spoken of above.

The circumstance affords us an occasion for saying, that we believe sincerely that of all the candidates before the Legislature, all the circumstances, regarding the present and looking to the future, Governor CURTIN is best entitled to the distinction of United States Senator. His great and arduous public services during the historic periods of the war—the fame which our State acquired under his mangement—the flourishing condition of her affairs now, are stand-points for reasons—in our judgment overwhelming—why he should be made Senator. He deserves the people's recognition and reward for public services which have made the name of Governor CURTIN honorable throughout the land.

PHYSICAL AND MORAL POWER.

The foreign policy of the United States has been in the past eminently wise, sourteous and just. The earnest counsels of Washington as well as others, have undoubtedly had a most salutary influence, in keeping us from alliances and interferences with other nations that might involve us in their political difficulties. And, although those counsels were suggested by and adapted specially to the weak and youthful period of our national life, yet they are not to be thrown aside as obsolete and inappropriate, in the maturity and vigor to which we have attained in the present day. Should we, contrary to the sage and friendly advice of the Father of his country, become entangled in the meshes of European politics, it will be a course not dictated by necessity nor approved by the wisdom of true patriotism. Our real independence embraces freedom from the occasions of such entanglement.

It sometimes happens with nations as with individuals, that the physical gets the ascendency over the natural and moral, and suggests measures, in view of power, without much reference to the right or wrong involved in them. The character that this predominance of conscious strength over considerations of right gives to an individual is not less repulsive, than the character it would give to a nation. It is one which we as a nation have no occasion to admire or to covet. In the affairs of our own country, we have an ample field for the exercise of our wisdom and strength. It was the great error of the secondary period of the French revolution, to embrace too extensive a work of influence and control among the nations. With reference to ourselves, it cannot but be seen that there is abroad a sort of expectation that we will now show our admitted power, in extending the sphere of our political influence, and it seems, in a measure, to be taken for granted that because we can assume the bullying attitude we shall inevitably do it. This we apprehend, will prove, like many an unfavorable expectation before, entirely gratuitous and mistaken. The great Republic is satisfied with being respected among nations, without being feared, as a thing rather than force dictates her policy and regulates her intercourse and transactions with them.

It is unquestionably a help to the maintenance of peaceful and advantageous relations with the rest of the world, that we have the prestige of power, as it receives attention and adjustment to all just demands. But this benefit would be lost or endangered, if the consciousness of power were to suggest arbitrary and unjust pretensions, or to degenerate into a captious pugnacity that would insure only hatred or contempt. Our late history has demonstrated the immense capability of the Nation for arraying and directing physical force. This has had, and is still exerting its effect on other nations—an effect too valuable to be impaired by boastful pretensions, or by dictatorial interferences with the affairs of others. The counsel of Washington should be implicitly heeded in these things, in the speech and tone of the great body of the people, as it has in public policy. And the firm foundations of our independence—never firmer than now—will warrant this dignified and peaceful assurance. No nation ever had a better opportunity for standing firm to what is right, without yielding anything to mere expediency, or attempting anything through mere pride of power.

FEMALE CLERKS.

The question of dispensing entirely with females as clerks in the Department offices at Washington, is under consideration by the constituted authorities. Whether this discharge of all the female clerks is advisable and right, or otherwise, is a proper subject of consideration undoubtedly. That the measure, if decided on and carried out, would be very severe on many worthy and competent persons, is equally plain. Whatever other reasons there may be in favor of the measure, there are two which we cannot see any force in. The first is, that there are occasional cases of incompetency or inattention to duty among them. It is easy to see how this may very properly require the removal of those implicated in the delinquency, but why should it affect the employment of the industrious and competent? The other reason is, that the application for places are numerous, and the decision on them difficult and perplexing, to escape from which it is proposed to exclude all now employed, and to introduce an entirely new arrangement. But these reasons would apply as well to the corps of male clerks as to the females, but they have no proper force, in reference to either, beyond individual cases.

The female clerks have not, it is true, been soldiers, but many of them have lost husbands, fathers or brothers on whom they depended for subsistence. And it is affirmed that they, on the average, do as much work and do it as well as those of the sex, although their pay is but $900, while that of males, in the same Department and the same kind of work, is from $1,200 to $1,800. If they are willing—they are both willing and anxious—to serve in the offices of Government for this moderate compensation, and actually do serve faithfully, their deprivation of the privilege of thus earning a livelihood would seem to be unduly severe, unless there be some reasons more substantial and sound than those to which we have referred.

SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DIRECTORS.

The public schools are established by law, as a civil institution. As such they are supported and controlled by State authority. They are designed to be a benefit to the State by educating the rising generation so as to make them respecters and observers of the laws, to be good citizens, qualified and disposed by principle and habit for fulfilling the duties of citizens. To keep them in a condition favorable to these results, constant supervision is provided for by law, and great power is intrusted to Directors in the several wards and townships.

This renders the election of Directors, which of course devolves on the people, a most important duty. Persons who seek the office through desire for a little township notoriety, or for the sake of beating a competitor who may be in nomination, or, in order to secure a place for some friends as teachers, or for some favored publisher's books—such persons are almost sure to be the most unfit for the office of School Director, neither should the office be filled on the ground of political preferences or sectarian names. It is one in which personal, party and denominational partialities should give place to the consideration of capability and faithfulness. The men who were competent to discharge the duties of Directors, and who are willing, for the public good, to spend the time necessary to discharge them well and fully, are the men who are needed to make the public schools, in city and country, what they were designed to be.

The personal improvement of the children may justly claim attention to this subject at the hands of the parents, in every ward and township. And in addition to this consideration, the close relation of the schools to the public welfare, as the nurseries of intelligence, morals and good citizenship, may well be pleaded to arouse and draw the attention of every good citizen to the election of School Directors in their several districts. Let the best and most reliable men, that can be obtained, occupy this highly respectable and important office, and our public schools will maintain the position of usefulness which they have hitherto occupied, and continue to advance in good influences on their several neighborhoods and on the whole body politic.

THE GLASS INTEREST—ITS DEPRESSED CONDITION.

Elsewhere will be found a communication in relation to the present depressed condition of the glass interest in this section, which has a melancholy interest for the people of Allegheny county, the centre of that interest in the United States. It is a home argument, as to the imperative necessity of increasing the present tariff rates upon all leading articles of American production, which our people can both understand and feel.

In a recent editorial we referred to the distress caused at the East by the suspension of woolen factories, but our correspondent shows that there is occasion enough for sympathy at home. In our own locality, the men employed in only one branch of the glass business are threatened with idleness—another name for poverty, because the Government blindly allows foreign glass to be imported and sold in our market at a less price than it can be manufactured for here, with all our experience and facilities.

We need not refer to what our correspondent says in regard to the loss of internal revenue from the stopping of thirty furnaces. And unless Congress shall promptly pass the Tariff bill which went through the House last July and was killed in the Senate, or furnish some adequate measure of relief, we know what will soon be the general condition of our 1200 manufacturing establishments, their 25,000 employees, and annual production of $60,000,000. The annual glass production here has been about $8,000,000, paying $180,000 monthly wages. The way in which it is being affected by the present tariff, is but an earnest of what must happen to the industries of the whole country, if a remedy is not quickly applied.

In France the strength of the nation is in the popular ownership of the lands, but primogeniture and the annually decreasing number of small farmers and lessees, are most alarming dangers of England—the masses being nearly all tenants at will, or equally dependent mill hands. This evil is daily threatening England with revolution. It is also just now greatly disturbing the peace of Southern Italy, where the lands are parcelled out among a few territorial proprietors. The people are kept in demi-starvation, or driven by the crime of brigandage, and property are insecure, and the laws openly defied.

In the event of a war between our Government and England, or of disturbance in Canada, the importance of an independent line of telegraph connecting the Atlantic coast with the Western coast of France and of Southern Europe could scarcely be over-estimated. Indeed it would be almost a necessity. It has been suggested that Queen Victoria's vessels, now out of commission, might profitably be employed in making preliminary surveys for such a work.

The fact that a deceased Union soldier died in a rebel prison, is made *prima facie* and for all practical purposes conclusive proof that he died of disease contracted in the service of the United States in his line of duty, by the amended pension law recently suggested by Mr. LAWRENCE of Ohio, through the Committee on Pensions. The Government should be lenient, as to presumptive proof, where, from the nature of the case, positive proof is generally unattainable.

The delegates who were sent from Lower Canada to England to negotiate a confederation scheme, are expected back soon, as a favorable understanding has been reached. There will remain for local adjustment only the question of funds for the construction of the inter-colonial railroad.

What the Indians Cost.

The task of keeping the Indians off the western track of civilization appears to be an expensive, if not glorious one. If there is not military renown, there is money in the business. Under the pretext of guarding emigrant trains, mail routes, and telegraph lines against the raids of a few hundred Indians, chiefly armed with bows and arrows, $25,000,000 were expended in 1864, and in 1865, $26,000,000—total, $51,000,000. Of this large sum, only $1,642,000 was expended for the pay of troops, the balance being misused by the contractors employed in the Indian department, $28,274,200. The flying Indians, mounted on hardy ponies, are pursued in vain by heavy infantry, and unless a suitable force of light cavalry is kept on their track, they will cost the Government more than their bodies and souls are worth before they are expelled. And it is more than suspected that parties interested in the expenditure of the Government funds are only too anxious to protract these wars.

How Rum is Made.

We have duly chronicled the raid on the New York whisky stills. It now appears that some twenty distilleries of rum have also been seized. The public spirited proprietors of these places were apparently sinking their fortunes in the manufacture of liquor at a rapid rate. This is shown by the following figures:

One hundred gallons of molasses at 70 cents would cost	$70
The tax on sixty gallons of rum, the yield of one hundred gallons of molasses, at $2 a gall for the rum	120
Incidental expenses of manufacture, fuel, labor, &c., say	12
Cost of the sixty gallons of rum	$202
Sixty gallons at $1 40 market price would be	84
Apparent loss of the distillers on every sixty gallons of rum made	$100

The Government cruelly refuses to allow these men to ruin themselves for the benefit of the thirsty, and actually insinuates that they have been defrauding the revenue by not paying any taxes.

The Western journals are generally hostile to Secretary McCulloch's policy of redemption, and the Chicago *Tribune* has recently devoted columns to a denunciation of it. It is even intimated that the manufacturing interests of that region are preparing to send to Washington instructions for the purpose of representing to Congress the concern with which they regard the bearing of the proposed policy of the Treasury Department upon their several interests, and especially to protest against the policy of contraction of the currency.

Hepworth Dixon, editor of the London *Athenæum*, on getting home from America, tells his readers as to the state of the international copyright question over here. Our "eminent men of letters"—think of the oddities of the list, as he tells them off: "Longellow, Agassiz, Lowell, Emerson, Holmes, Baker, Bayard Taylor, Bowles, Richardson, Horace Greeley and their like,"—for when did all these men ever get into each other's company before?—these men of letters, he says, are all against the system; so, he thinks, are the best publishers.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

The Aldermen of New York have good appetites. While sitting lately as a board of canvassers, they swallowed in ten days, $2,500 of food at the city's expense. The Common Council at one sitting on another occasion ate $450 worth. Their carriage hire paid by the city amounted to $11,000 in twelve months.

Reports made by the proper officers to the Captain of the City Police, show that there are now in Columbus, Ohio, fifty-six houses of ill fame, and about two hundred and fifty-seven saloons and dram shops.

A majority of the delegates of all the British North American Provinces now in London, have pronounced against Ottawa as the Capital of the Confederation, preferring Quebec.

Quite a hunting party of European notabilities, including Prince Nicholas Ourouss of Russia, Count Montaigne of France, F. H. Evans of England, and R. Digby of Ireland, was recently assembled at Wyandotte, Kansas, on their return from the plains, where they had been hunting. The whole party had killed 150 buffaloes.

The Columbus (O.) *Journal* says that gold in "tiny imps" is being found in Richland county. We suspect the imps are quite "tiny."

Probably every city and village in the Union has a considerable ticket interest in the Art Association distribution, which is to come off at the Opera House, Chicago, on the 21st of January, and which is to include in its prizes the Opera House itself. The occasion will therefore be one of almost national interest.

A convention of the colored people of Ohio and their friends will assemble at Cincinnati, January 8th, under the direction of the State Auxiliary Equal Rights League. The delegations will have special reference to the matter of strengthening the influences that are finally to secure to colored people the right of suffrage.

There are 2,000 negroes in New York city, 25,000 of whom are regular church attendants. The total includes 500,000 young men between the ages of 15 and 30 years.

Some $15,000 more is necessary to complete the fund to build the new fire-proof building for the Philadelphia Academy of Natural sciences. Subscriptions come in rather slowly.

The whole of the Trinity Church property left by Anneke Jansis likely to be absorbed by the editorial profession. We have heard of the large slice allotted to a Pittsburgh "local," and now Hon. John Ingersol, editor of the *Ottawa* (Mich.) *American* is East looking after his share of the $40 000,000.

PERSONAL.

—Henry Keep, now the greatest "Railroad Baron" the United States, being President of the New York Central, controlling also the Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana, of which the Cleveland and Toledo are the leveland and Toledo, was born in Jefferson county, New York, and landed in Rochester, N. Y., a penniless orphan boy, about fairty years ago. He drove team and did other kinds of hard labor, and had saved enough money to become a canal 1837 came on. He immediately began to operate in "shin plasters" and underlook other small banking operations, then railroad stocks and rapidly rose to fortune.

—The Toledo *Commercial* corrects certain statements made in the *New York Journal of Commerce* to the effect that Artemus Ward: "It was over ten years ago that Mr. Brown became the local editor of this paper (being his first experience as a writer for the public), and continued as such for some years, when he assumed a similar position on the Cleveland *Plaindealer*, and afterwards wrote for the *Vanity Fair*, since which time he has been engaged exclusively in the lecturing and touring. It is a fact, that Mr. Brown was at one time a 'pi' printer,' and probably a 'strapped' one. He was a compositor on the *Commercial* before he coming its local editor, and it was while thus employed that he first developed the peculiar talent as a writer which afterward gave him a national, and has now given him a world-wide reputation."

—Wendell Phillips, in the Anti-Slavery Standard, advocates the election of Frederick Douglas for the United States Senatorship for New York, against Ira Harris. He utterly repudiates Horace Greeley, because of what he styles the *Tribune* editor's timidity, conservatism, and his shy habit of compromise.

—In a recent interview with "True and False Guides," before the Young Men's Christian Association, of Manchester, England, Dean Alford of the established church asserted that the newspapers are false guides. Newspapers were totally unworthy to be followed as guides; bad in politics, but worse, far worse, in religion; for, when arguing the latter, they laid it down as their first postulate that all who disagreed with them were not mistaken opponents, but absolutely bad men.

—Captain Mayne Reid, the novelist, is being put through the London Court of Bankruptcy. His total indebtedness is about $25,000, of which $12,000 is unsecured.

—A violinist, who puts a wet sponge over the reputation of Paganini, Ole Bull, Sivori, Servais and other rest, has arrived in London. He has quite turned the heads of *dilettanti*. His name is Joachim. He comes from Germany, and is thirty-five years old. He said he would have come sooner, but he was afraid of the Parisians, and did not like to risk a reputation which was gaining him money in his native country.

—They are now having the lovely Adah Isaacs Menken at Paris in a sort of wild South American drama, in which she is to "ride a horse, nu." In this the famous American Mazeppa and *comedienne* will have a *role* to suit her multiform talents.

—Madame Michelet, the young wife of M. Michelet, has written a new novel called "L'Enfant," but it is said as much experience as that used by her husband in writing "La Femme,"—they have, we believe, a single off-spring. Madame Michelet was a governess, and for some time lived in that capacity with the family of Prince Cattaneozzne at Bucharest.

LITERARY.

While waiting for the rest of Mr. Froude's history of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the first two volumes of which have just been published, we are favored by a Frenchman, Mons. J. M. Dargaud, with his "Histoire d'Elisabeth Angleterre," which is readable and interesting, though often inaccurate in small matters. His book almost seems written to illustrate the mottoof Catherine II. that it bears on a little page, "Peu de chose, beaucoup de matière; reliez et grande reine nassurement." The curious mistakes of spelling proper names that are met with on every page make us wonder why it is that French writers, who are so careful about the finish of their style, are so uniformly inaccurate in their use of English words. Do they never correct their own proof, or do they never take the trouble to verify a word? Here we have, among many others, Stirppe, Wilde, Lorrimer, Lorrimor, Lorrimar, Davers, and Hatway, which last is M. Dargaud's way of representing the maiden name of Shakespeare's wife.

Notwithstanding all the opposition of the Messrs. Hogg, Miss Braddon's new magazine, "The Belgravia," has been fairly launched on the sea of publication. Its contributors are the greatest of modern artists on wood, draws for it, and Charles Reade is to be associate editor. Mr. Reade's contributions will be, we imagine, last long. Reade never could agree with any one long, and he will not agree with you, yet, and we doubt very much whether he will get along amicably with the self-willedauthor of Lady Audley's Secret.

There are three hundred and twenty-seven newspapers, periodicals and magazines published in the New England States. Of the forty-three journals in Maine, twenty-one are Republican, eight are Democratic, and the others are neutral, independent, religious, agricultural, literary, commercial, &c. The issues of the other States is as follows: Republican journals in New Hampshire, fifteen; Democratic journals, seven; other journals, twelve. Republican journals in Vermont, twenty-three; Democratic, six; others, seven. Massachusetts, except Boston, Republican journals, sixty-one; Democratic, six; "Conservative," one. The United States Republican journals, fourteen; Rhode Island, Republican journals, five; Democratic, one; the Providence *Post*, neutral, seven; others, three. Connecticut, Republican journals, twenty-one; Democratic, ten; all others, seven.

Pretty gossip about the last century is not so attractive as it was a few years ago. Thackeray served up literary dishes of chat, concerning men and events of that period, so exquisitely cooked and of such delightful flavor as to have destroyed for the time all effort in the same line made by coarser caterers. Still there is always a market for the public, and that relished by Mr. Heneage Jesse in his "Memoirs of the Life and Reign of George the Third" is evidenced by its already consumption. The personal history of the king was more romantic than many persons dream of. The adventures of Lady Sarah Lennox of his later life have made men almost forget the little episodes with Hannah Lightfoot and Lady Sarah Lennox. The many private and hitherto unpublished letters of the king add a substantial value to the book of Mr. Jesse, as they are generally well written. Among the private papers few are more interesting than Charlotte's own account of her journey from Mecklenburg to St. James's, her reception there and her wedding. Lady Sarah Lennox, on the sides of the bridesm The king kept his countenance very well during the ceremony, but the vast amount which invokes a blessing like that bestowed on Abraham and Sarah, when his bride's age is considered, forcibly struck, and his uneasiness was perceptible to every one.

The historical mania of the age—and we are not sure but we must regard it as an amiable and useful one—is to set right with the present generation great persons who have labored for centuries under the worst of characters. Mr. Hepworth Dixon did it for Richard the Third, Mr. Froude for Henry he English, and now Dr. Adolf Stahr vindicates Antony and Cleopatra, white-washes Tiberius and apologizes for Nero. He declares that the two latter were victims of Agrippina's malice. For this last named Roman matron he has not many good words. In his book, entitled "Agrippina, Nero's Mother," he is, to speak mildly, rather severe upon her.

Gas from Pine Wood and Bones.—Several Toronto gentlemen have recently been on a visit to Coburg, (C. W.,) to examine the works of the new gas works introduced there, by Ensley's patent. Coburg nas now been brilliantly lit up for two weeks with an excellent gas made from pine wood and bones. Other vegitable or animal refuse matter can also be used. It secures a saving of one dollar per thousand feet. The process of manufacture exhibits many novelties interesting to the friends of progress. Gas and tar, turpentine, pyroligneous acid, liquid ammonia, and superphosphate of lime or animal charcoal, are all being produced at the same time and from the same material. The invention forms a valuable as well as novel development of Canadian resources.

How the vagrant laws of Georgia and other Southern States operate, is shown by a Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette*: William Fletcher was employed by a Georgia Equal Rights Association as a missionary and teacher, and a comfortable salary paid him by a Northern benevolent society. While actively engaged in his duties, he was arrested as a vagrant and sentenced to the chain gang for twelve months. He is now serving out his sentence.

LATE NEWS ITEMS.

Thomas Hall, late a candidate for Alderman in New York City, and some twenty others, were arrested Monday evening while engaged in gambling.

Pat Farrel, a notorious burglar, was shot in New York, Sunday night, by a policeman while endeavoring to escape arrest. He died in a few hours after reaching the hospital.

The Richmond dispatch of yesterday says: In consequence of orders from General Schofield that all Government horses and mules in the hands of private parties shall be given up, those having such without bill of sale are rapidly running them into the mountains.

John T. H. Smith, in the employ of Collins & Hayden, Cincinnati, formerly of Hudson, New York, was murdered on the Jeffersonville, Indiana, ferryboat Sunday night, by a man named Whitcomb. The provocation was said to be very slight.

The boiler of J. D. Brown's planing mill on Floyd street, Louisville, collapsed two flues yesterday morning, driving the boiler a considerable distance through a stable, killing Mr. Hand, watchman, and injuring several negroes. One mule killed and several injured.

A Fredericksburg, Virginia, dispatch of the 16th says: Henry Boyd Lewis, a descendant of George Washington, was convicted last night at King George Court House, of voluntary manslaughter in killing Dr. Ross, some two years ago. He was sentenced to the penitentiary for two months in the penitentiary. The jury recommended the prisoner to mercy. The trial lasted ten days.

A Fortress Monroe correspondent says of Jeff. Davis relative to the capture of Surratt: Every feeling of his nature revolts at the assassination, particularly of such a man as Mr. Lincoln, who, although his opponent in a contest of arms, he respected for his integrity, high magnanimity of character, and affectionate and loyal devotion to what he considered right.

The Georgia Legislature adjourned without day on Saturday. General Pierry sent to the Senate on Saturday his veto of the bill to charter a State aid to the Savannah, Griffin and North Alabama Railroad. He also vetoed the bill to allow the redemption of real estate within two years after sale, and the homestead bill. The vetoes of the first two were sustained, the homestead bill was passed over the veto by nineteen to five, but was lost in the House. In the house a resolution was adopted asking Congress to establish a navy office at Atlanta.

A Washington dispatch says: A delegation of Western produce merchants are here to try and have the Supreme Court to render a decision that warehouse receipts are negotiable paper. The courts of Illinois decided they are not, which decision causes much embarrassment among the Western produce dealers.

The celebration of the anniversary of the battle of Nashville, on Saturday, was sadly interfered with by a heavy rain. The ceremonies took place at the capital. Governor Brownlow, on the platform, delivered an address. General Thomas with a magnificent gold medal, appropriate inscription, presented him with the weapon, and before he could be presented with the medal, he was taken to his side, the blade penetrating to the depth of six or eight inches, and inflicting injuries which may prove fatal. The first stroke severed the left lung, and rupturing the pericardium. Gwin, when he committed the assault, deliberately walked the pick with both hands, and struck Mr Dodds apparently with all his force. Mr. Dodds was picked up, taken into one of the rooms of the tavern, and was afterwards removed to the residence near Hilton's village, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, about three miles distant. Doctors Schooley and Wilson, of Fort Wayne, are in attendance, and who did all in their power to alleviate the sufferings of the unfortunate man. Dr. W. R. Hamilton, of the city, was also sent for, and arrived there about midnight. Dodds was at first considered only a dangerous injury, but he sank very rapidly yesterday, being unable to speak, and it is feared by his physicians he will not live.

After inflicting the blow, Gwin fled from the tavern and had not, at last accounts, been arrested, but the impression was that his extradition had been obtained. He was a Welshman by birth, and resided in the vicinity of Fort Wayne. Having removed there about two years ago from Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland county.

Mr. Dodds, the wounded man, is about thirty-six years of age and was but recently married. He is a brother-in-law of Mr. Lacey, Sloan & Co., from the mines near by where he resided. He is spoken of by all who know him as being an upright and sober young man.

THE DINSMORE MURDER.

The Effort made to get Young Montgomery away Mysterious Visits of R. M. Gibson to Wellsburg.

The Wellsburg *Herald* says: Some time on Friday week last, R. M. Gibson, Esq., the law partner of Montgomery, arrived in this town, accompanied by a young man, whom he took out up at the Virginia House, and was observed to be watchful and uneasy. About dusk, as Gen. H. Dayal was passing from the Court House down on the north edge of the town, he was accosted by the young man, who was found sitting on the road side, and together, the two walked down to the Virginia House. The unknown young man pulled down his hat a little back and affected great ignorance. The general, on reaching the place of business, directed the young man to walk up to the office, which he did, with apparent assurance, but had not proceeded far when he was recognized by Sleep, and taken to one side, and Gibson sent for. So mysteriously was this part of the transaction managed, and all the movements of Mr. Sleep a suspicion that they intended to conceal the fact that Montgomery was actually in town had also made their appearance and were promptly on the spot.

Mr. Gibson was searched—some $80 in gold and over $100 in currency, a six shooter and a set of pistols were found on his person. He was taken in charge by the Sheriff. Sleep was also put under arrest but promptly gave bail, and all the warrants sworn out against him, sufficient to justify detention.

The party then started for Washington on Saturday morning.

Deplorable Condition of Spain.

A late foreign letter, speaking of the condition of Spain, says. The state of this badly governed country is beginning to attract much attention in France. The Queen, who, it is well known, is entirely given up to religious vagaries, is now quite under the influence of her confessor, Father Claret, and of an intriguing Camarilla, also under the influence of those who wish to keep the Queen in a state of fear, in order to prevent her from granting any amnesty. Those who have counted on some political change in favor of liberty, on the death of the Queen, have been disappointed. Her Majesty was departing from her mission of peace, and was about to throw the country into a fearful civil war, and cannot think of preserving her crown but by remaining faithful to all the principles of that system which has been the instrument of her elevation. She has also insisted on the necessity of the Queen's making large concessions to the Liberal party, and rallying every Liberal party, saying that if she did not do so, the day of ruin for the Spanish House of Bourbon would have arrived. In the midst of all these dangers, the dynasty, and other members of the royal family would be obliged to leave the peninsula.

Her Majesty replied that the Duchess could not form an exact opinion of the situation of Spain, that the Queen had adopted a policy which produced excellent results, and which was the only one to follow to save her crown. Her dynasty and the royal family in all her family, moreover, she was resolved to in no way modify her conduct in the matter. The Queen added: "The revolution has declared war to me. On my side declare war to the revolution. I am ready. I shall be the first to conquer. To abandon at this moment of the struggle the principles which I have professed, and to make concessions, would be suicide, and I have before me the example of my mother. She was also sent for, and arrived there about midnight. Dodds was at first considered only a dangerous injury, but he sank very rapidly yesterday, being unable to speak, and it is feared by his physicians he will not live.

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PROBABLE MURDER.

Outrageous Assault in Versailles Township—Man Struck with a Miner's Pick —Escape of the Perpetrator.

We are again called upon to record another of those murderous assaults, which have become frequent occurrences. It will be remembered that on Monday afternoon, Mr. James Stewart, of the firm of Dickson, Stewart & Co., accompanied by Lloyd Jamison and William Dodds, left this city in a sleigh for the purpose of buying a mule in the country. They proceeded along the Greensburg Turnpike passed through Lot's Ferry village, and stopped at the house of George Weiss, three miles beyond, in Versailles township, for the purpose of the negotiation of the bank entirely solvent. The work of a couple of hours sufficed to close the bargain in Nashville and vicinity, to Nashville County, on the north side of the Cumberland, has been organized.

A large number of negroes passed through Atlanta, Georgia, on Thursday, on their way from the interior to Savannah, where they will year for one hundred and fifty dollars, with load, coaching, &c.

The Legislature of Georgia has repealed all laws denying foreigners the privilege of owning real estate. They also passed a resolution thanking the Kentuckians for corn sent for distribution to the poor of Georgia.

The steamer Rattler, from Cincinnati to New Orleans, loaded with provisions, struck a snag near Island No. 37 on Thursday night and sunk. The cargo is an entire loss. Several of the crew are supposed to have been lost.

Damages for Expulsion from a Train.—In the Richland county, Ohio, Court of Common Pleas, George W. Hauk has recovered a verdict of four hundred dollars against the Cleveland, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad, under the following circumstances: Major Hauk, in traveling from Mansfield to Crestline, failed to purchase a ticket before entering the cars, the price of which was fifty cents. The conductor, in collecting the fare, demanded eight cents extra, which is the rate fixed by the company where no ticket is purchased. The passenger paid no ticket. Mr. H. refused to pay the extra thirty-five cents, whereupon the conductor rang the bell, the train was stopped, and Mr. H. put off, not, however, before the cars Mr. H. offered, in the hearing of the passengers, to pay the eighty five cents demanded, but the conductor said he had made the rule and that he must get off which he did, and was compelled to walk to Crestline, a distance of four miles, for which he now receives $400, or $100 a mile for the distance.

Reverses of Fortune.—The sale of the famous Steel oil farm, on Monday last, for a Government debt of $11,000, is one of the most striking illustrations of the fortunes of war, says the Erie *Dispatch*, that has occurred in some years. In 1864 this farm, when left to John W. Steele, was returning an income of $1,000 per day, and is the sale, kept by Mrs. Mc-Clintock, it was offered him at the price of $20,000 in gold and $50,000 in greenbacks. Steele and Mcintyre were offered $1,000,000 in gold for the oil region, while their money lasted. To day Steele is impoverished and Slocum is serving his term of imprisonment, for the interest received in a total assault on an unoffending man. The fortune of Mcintyre, too, has been as rapid as was their acquisition of almost boundless wealth. A history or the past three years of the lives of these men would be a romance, and show that "truth is stranger than fiction."

The Susquehanna Boom Bill.—As has already been announced Governor Curtin has approved the bill increasing the powers of the Susquehanna Boom Company. Certain changes having been made by parties above and below Williamsport, the Governor caused examinations to be made by James Worrell, Esq., and afterwards by Col. John A. Wright, who concurred in the amendments, and that the improvement to the interests of the State, and its necessity to the protection of the lumber interest of all parties, is settled at that point. These engineers also suggested certain modifications, to which the company readily assented, and which filed and approved by the stockholders, under which the charges complained of are reduced and the capital of the company increased to $1,500,000. The Governor has signed the bill, nor will submit the report and agreement to the Legislature at the beginning of the session for such action as may be deemed necessary. He is duly authorized by the stockholders to legislate as he may deem proper to protect the interests of all parties concerned.

The Ohio Gold Discoveries.—The late gold discovery near Belleville, Ohio, on the Sandusky and Mansfield Railroad, is exciting much attention. The Columbus *Journal* says: Mr. George W. Dunlevy, a well known business man of Belleville, has a company at work on one of New Yorkers, has recently instituted proceeding on a more extensive scale, with a battering show of success. Gold is found in tiny lumps and in the sand, and in the form of fine sand. "Panning" experiments have convinced the operators that by grinding up the quartz rock, can be found in that locality, and land has been purchased, and a company is being organized to prosecute the gold hunting to a successful result.

Morrissey is the first penitentiary convict who has ever sat in the legislature of a Christian country. According to an official record published in the press of this city, Morrissey has, in the course of his "adventurous" life, been eight times indicted for assault with intent to kill, assault and battery and burglary, and has actually served a term in the Albany penitentiary for three several breaches of the public peace.—*New York Nation.*

But consider how many Congressmen ought to have been indicted eight times eight times, and put in prison for the same, and rallying Liberal party, saying that if she did not do so, the day of ruin for the Spanish House of Bourbon would have arrived. In the midst of all these dangers, the dynasty, and other members of the royal family would be obliged to leave the peninsula.

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THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, December 17, 1866.

SENATE.

The chair laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of War, in response to the previous resolution of the Senate, transmitted the claims of owners of slaves that entered and were drafted into the military service. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. SUMNER presented the proceedings of an unconditional Union mass meeting held at Norfolk, composed of citizens without regard to color, asking Congress to ignore the present Government of Virginia, and establish a Government under Judge Underwood. Referred to the Committee on Reconstruction.

SALISBURY objected to the reception of the paper, on the ground that it was simply the proceeding of a public meeting, and not in the form of a petition, and asked for the ruling of the chair on the question of the reception on the ground of a precedent already established by the Senate in declining to receive such papers.

The Senate decided to receive the papers.

Mr. WADE presented the petition of citizens of Alexandria, praying for the retrocession of the county to the District of Columbia; that no protection can be obtained under the laws of Virginia. Laid on the table.

Mr. SUMNER introduced a bill to prevent and punish persons making fraudulent representations, thereby inducing emigration to foreign countries, which are intended to prevent colored persons from being enticed to foreign countries, where they will be treated as coolies.

On motion of Mr. WILSON it was resolved that the Secretary of War be requested to communicate reports of the Assistant Commissioners of the freedmen's bureau, including the action of the Bureau in the late slave States.

The President *pro tem.* laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of War in response to the resolution calling for information in regard to the claims of Assistant Commissioners to award compensation to loyal owners of slaves who volunteered or were pressed into the military service of the United States during the war, from certain States. Commissioners had been appointed for Maryland, Missouri, Kentucky and Delaware; 3,807 claims are filed by the Maryland commissioners, 786 allowed, 2,982 rejected, and 2,982 referred to claimants on account of dissolution of the first commission. Another commission has been appointed for Maryland. The matter is finally referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. TRUMBULL moved to proceed to the consideration of the bill to repeal the thirteenth section of an act to suppress insurrection and punish treason, and send a message to the President myexcept amnesty to persons who have been engaged in the rebellion, and such relations as he may deem expedient for the public welfare.

Mr. HENDRICKS reminded the Senator that the bill to admit Nebraska was pending, and said he having the floor, desired to finish the argument on that subject, and several Senators on the Democratic side desired to speak on this bill.

Mr. TRUMBULL thought the consideration of this bill might be postponed before the expiration of the morning hour. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. JOHNSON was under the impression that the PRESIDENT had now resided in the Presidential mansion.

Mr. TRUMBULL said of course this section would not repeal the constitution. Its only effect was to repeal the limitation of the first act. The impression common in this country that this bill took away the power of the President to grant pardons was erroneous. It was not in the power of Congress to take from him that power. These questions had been settled years ago by the Attorney General and the Supreme Court. Attorney General Wirt had subsequently given an opinion to the effect that the pardon was of the offence and not of the conviction, the court declining merely evidence of the crime.

Mr. TRUMBULL cited decisions and opinions to sustain his proposition. He further said the President's power over property confiscated would not be taken away by the repeal of the thirteenth section. According to General Howard's report, the President had restored 300,000 acres of land, confiscated by the property of rebels. The President certainly had not the power to restore property once sold to bona fide third parties had intervened. The reason for the advisability of the repeal of this section was that it provides for the President issuing proclamations of general amnesty. Congress could not take from him the power to grant pardons, but they could recall the power which had been misused in pardoning and restoring property, and no longer continue the sanction of Congress to such a course.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Maryland, said the power conferred by the Constitution on the President was as large as words could make it. He supposed where the power was absolute, it was for the President to decide on the particular cases, whether in favor of pardon or otherwise. If General Washington granted amnesty to those engaged in the whisky insurrection, and that authority had never been questioned, he conferred Hamilton to show that where there were many concerned in the rebellion, they might be pardoned in some general way; that the power of pardon should be as little as possible fettered or embarrassed. He quoted Hamilton further in favor of vesting the power of pardon in the President, and of its not requiring the concurrence of Congress, proclamations might be necessary in times when Congress was in session to prevent interference by any insurrection that might exist.

The morning hour having expired, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the order of the day, which was the bill for the admission of Nebraska.

Mr. HENDRICKS resumed the floor, and spoke at length. He maintained that this bill, if passed, as a precedent, as any State admitted to the United States had come in without regard to her domestic institutions, and without considerations not contained in the Constitution. He denied that in any case the law enabling act been complied with as asserted by Mr. Sherman. No provision of a State Constitution was of any binding force by a convention of the people. This Constitution had been formed by the people of the United States, and for the seizure and sale of forfeited and abandoned lands, have been faithfully executed.

Mr. RODGERS, of New Jersey, presented the credentials of a Senator elect from the State of Georgia. Referred to Committee on Reconstruction.

Mr. CLARKE introduced a bill to protect loyal persons in the States lately in rebellion, including Maryland and the District of Missouri. The bill provides that citizens may sue for any cause whatever in the United States District Court. It also provides for crimes committed against persons who remained loyal during the war. The offender shall be liable to indictment and trial in the United States District Court.

On motion, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill.

The bill for the admission of Nebraska as a State was then taken up. The pending question was on the amendment of Mr. M'CLURG, providing as a condition that the citizens of Nebraska should never claim the right to leave the Union.

Mr. HOWARD, of Michigan, argued that the requirements of the enabling act had been complied with, and at this critical time the admission of these territories, Colorado and Nebraska, should not be made the subject of these obstructions proposed by Senators. The making the conferring of suffrage upon the negroes a fundamental condition to the admission of Nebraska was a dangerous precedent. Congress had the right to impose conditions, but they should be conditions precedent, made before the territory entered the Union. It was competent for Nebraska, at any time after admission, to amend this provision that being one of the reserved rights of States. He hoped and expected to see the time when all the loyal States would be black. He thought nothing else would bring peace to the lately rebellious States.

Mr. BROWN, of Missouri, asked whether, assuming that the States had exclusive control of the question of the right of franchise, the Senator held that in case a State should destroy the Republican form of government, the United States should not have the right to guarantee and protect that republican form of Government in the States.

Mr. HOWARD said that the general government itself now. When it was he would apply the remedy provided by the Constitution. He would say to the Senator that he did not believe that a denial by any State to allow the negro to vote such a departure from the principles of a republican form of government as to authorize Congress to interfere with it. It had been alleged by the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Sherman) that Congress had agreed to re-admit the States lately in rebellion upon the adoption by them of the Constitutional Amendment. He took the occasion to contradict it.

Mr. NORTON, of Minnesota, asked whether the Senator had not, on a former occasion, used this very argument which he now contradicted?

Mr. HOWARD said the Senator was mistaken. Congress has not agreed to admit those States on that ratification, leaving open the question whether three-fourths of the States would ratify those amendments. He read from a Report of the Reconstruction Committee to show that when these amendments had become a part of the Constitution, then those States should be admitted. The bill contemplated a proposition had not, however, passed the Senate. He denied that the Republican party was responsible for the views expressed by the minority. He believed it was proper to suppose that Congress would ratify legislation of this character. Congress had

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RUSSIA AND ROME.

These two powers, if the latter is still a power, have peculiarities, somewhat alike, that distinguish them from the other European nations. The head ruler of each is also the professed head of a church. In this character an old antagonism exists between them. Although in many respects their religious and ecclesiastical views are similar, the Greek church and the Roman have not been on terms of close friendship and fellowship with each other, more than with those who reject the special opinions and claims of both.

How much the old ecclesiastical conflicts, and how much political considerations, have had of influence in the case, we are not able to determine, but it is a fact worthy of notice, that the Russian Government has been the first to formally ignore the civil government of Rome, the Czar having withdrawn from all diplomatic relations with the Pope. This formal act of diplomacy, which in common parlance would be do denominated a snubbing of the Pope as a civil ruler, as one among the world's Potentates, is indicative of the small account made, among the sovereigns and nations of Europe, of what is called the Temporal Power of the Pope. What may be its influence on other powers remains to be seen.

But independent of this, the temporal power of the Pope is manifestly upon its last legs. It has been but a shadow and a name for three centuries. For the last eighteen years it has been but a dependency of France, under the protection of that power. This protection is now withdrawn, and, like air rushing in to fill a vacuum, the subjects of the Pope, especially those in the city of Rome, are intent on abolishing his civil rule over them altogether, and having the whole and united kingdom of Italy under one government, with one head, VICTOR EMANUEL, and with one capital, the ancient city of Rome. To American eyes this looks very proper, and to all eyes it looks highly probable. Perhaps the action of Russia may have anticipated it, perhaps not. But such is the direct tendency of political affairs in Southern Europe, and it arises from the tone of mind among the *people* of Italy, which is nowhere more intense and resolute than in the city of Rome. Whatever may be the wish of VICTOR EMANUEL in that direction—though it cannot be doubted that his mind is in accord with that of the people—he is under engagements to *protect* the Pope, on the withdrawal of the French soldiers, who have performed that duty for eighteen years. But should a rising of the people in Rome, like that which occurred in 1848, cause the retreat of the Pope from the city, as it did then, a pretext would of course be given for the occupation of Rome by the force of the protector, which would undoubtedly be followed, at the solicitation of the people, by the permanent establishment of his capital there, and, of course, by the final extinction of the civil rule or temporal power of the Pope.

We are not well enough acquainted with the nature of that antiquated amalgamation of political and ecclesiastical forces that has been smodied in the CZAR and the Pope, to divine what may be the consequences of a separation of the elements. Some of them we can readily foresee. And from our stand-point we can discover none that we regard as otherwise than beneficial, both to Church and State, to religious and political affairs. The power of the Pope, when he could effectively depose sovereigns and put kingdoms under his feet, is easily appreciated, and good reasons can be seen, under those circumstances, why he should hold fast to such a potency of sway. That was a temporal power corresponding with the name. But when it has faded out of sight in European diplomacy, and has, in form and extent, been shriveled to the political rule of a small section of Italy, whose population have for years been kept from insurrection against him only by foreign soldiers, the loss of it cannot, in itself, be a very severe one. It might be less disagreeable, perhaps, if the power were to pass into the hands of some other than an excommunicated person—this, if we recollect rightly being the status of VICTOR EMANUEL.

If, after the separation of politics and religion, of State and Church in the Pope, a similar divorce were effected in the Czar, each taking the bigger part of his former load, his proper part, the one devoting himself to religion and the other confining himself to statesmanship, the world would probably wag along the better for the change. England, too, and a few other countries, might advantageously share in the process of reform, and participate in its benefits.

THE STARTING OF OCEAN YACHTS.

New York has had another sensation. It will spread to all the country. It will last more than nine days. The yacht race has begun. This time readers know already. The sensation of the starting will survive the suspense of the intervening transit, and grow more intense as the time comes for news by cable of the arrival at the goal.

The three yachts, towed in grand style down the bay, and escorted by many crowded steamers, were ready for their long race of three thousand miles precisely at the hour appointed. At one o'clock P. M. on Tuesday, the 11th, like three huge sea birds, they started, fairly, and a mile or so asunder. The flag and night lights of the Vesta are white, those of the Fleetwing red, and those of the Henrietta blue. Large numbers of persons witnessed from the steamers the starting of these beautiful little vessels on their daring course, and watched them till their dark hulls and their snowy sails disappeared, which all did within three or four minutes of each other.

Their safe arrival on the other side of the ocean will be desired by all; but there will be in different minds an accompanying desire that this one or that one may arrive before the others, for there is the snug sum of $90,000 depending on that point. The voyage for such small vessels is not without considerable hazard at any time, and at this season of the year particularly dangerous. The competition of a race, for the fame and the money, will not be suggestive of extra caution, but more likely encourage *putting on* all the sail the little hulls will bear, when the wind favors. Whichsoever wins the prize, we hope they will all safely reach the shore. It will be evidence of some progress of skill, not only in the management but also in the building of sea-going vessels. Yankee yachts stand high already in English estimation. This novel and exciting expedition will be likely to elevate their fame still higher.

MEXICO AND MAXIMILIAN.

After all, it is doubtful whether MAXIMILIAN has gone, or made up his mind to go, from Mexico. The report now is, that he is disposed to stay, if not determined to stay. He has only been diplomatising, beating the bush, to see how things actually stood, to call out expressions, and especially to call out cash, for future operations. Where he is precisely, they do not appear to know in Mexico, and how shall we know here? He is reported at Orizaba, where he has actually been, he is reported in Puebla, where he may have been, he is said not to have reached the Capital, where he is just as likely to be as anywhere else, and it is rumored that he was for some little time in Vera Cruz, but Mexican rumors do not pass current with us, when Mexican reports are at such heavy discount. As we generally choose to do our guessing, we guess MAXIMILIAN is moving about somewhat lively, under the persuasion that something must be done, whether he goes or stays.

But the indications are, so far as we go anything reliable, that the present purpose of the Emperor is not only to stay in Mexico, but to stay as Emperor. He has got something more to encourage him than the Vera Cruz proclamation in his favor, and the rockets, music and vivas that welcomed its publication, at 4 o'clock, on the morning of December 1st. He has got the Bishops and clergy on his side, and, what is better, liberal dips into their strong boxes, where half the money of Mexico is stored. So say the reports. These kind ecclesiastics, being conservators of the church's funds, have placed at the disposal of MAXIMILIAN the trifling sum of $25,000,000, for immediate use, and promised a like sum annually to enable him to keep up an army. The merchants of Mexico pledged themselves at the same time to give him annually ten million dollars. On these terms, the result of excellent diplomacy on his part, MAXIMILIAN has decided to remain in Mexico, to retain his crown, and, if need be, to shed the last drop of his blood in defending the nation. For this information we are indebted to the New York *Times'* correspondent.

It appears that MAXIMILAN is to rely hereafter on Mexican support: France has failed him and so has Austria. If the above reports are correct, he is likely to do better without than he could do with their help. This being the attitude of affairs, the Monroe doctrine has a new phase of Imperialism to be applied to. The *foreign* interference being frustrated, does the Monroe Doctrine bear any application to *home-made* Empires and Kingdoms? The feeling in Mexico towards the United States is said to be not cordial nor conciliatory. If the mass of the people there, or if the Church Party support MAXIMILIAN and his throne, and do it effectively, the JUAREZ Government, by itself, will be of no account. This, however, may not prove to be the case.

ADVICE TO THE DEMOCRACY

In view of the forlorn and demoralized condition of the Democratic party, the sympathies of the New York *Herald* are moved to do something in its behalf. As in many other cases of generous impulse, the first thing that comes to hand, in the way of relief, is advice. The *Herald*, as the ever-ready adviser of parties and persons, endeavors to cheer the Democracy under its discouragements, while it proffers guidance by its counsels. How greatly both offices are needed may be inferred from the *Herald's* verdict, after its *post mortem* examination of the remains—"the disjointed, defeated, disorganized Democratic party." Nothing can be clearer in such a case, or more becoming—unless he be burying the party out of sight—than what the *Herald* proposes. "The first thing needed to set it upon its legs again is reconstruction," says the adviser, that is, reconstruction of the party.

And here is the prescription for the purpose:

"The exigency, however, requires nothing less than a reconstruction of the party on a new foundation—a foundation of the practical ideas and practical issues thrown uppermost by the great political earthquake which has swept up the things of the past. And what is the leading issue before the country? It is the pending Constitutional Amendment. That is the settlement for the South, decreed by the popular voice of the mighty North."

That is, the Democratic party can be thoroughly reconstructed and become powerful, may dominant, by getting upon the Republican platform. Very good! The accession might be acceptable. The platform is strong enough to hold all the truly loyal men of the country.

But the effort has been made twice already to accomplish this feat, and has both times failed, because accompanied by another effort, to push the Republican party off from their own platform. The first was in the East, under the auspices of the New York *World*, when it tried to get the Democratic party upon the shoulders of ANDREW JOHNSON, then in approved prestige with the Republicans. That failed badly, only getting a mighty slippery hold on the President, which is already given up by the reciprocal forces of a shake-off and a let-go. The second was a Western experiment, based on the supposed virtue of a complete, heels-over-head somersault. This also failed for two substantial reasons, first, that the "bout-face" would bring the party into view of a field of operations that they did not very well understand, and that bore a rather repulsive look of political justice to the colored race; and second, that their recent experiences, in the Fall elections had not impressed them favorably towards further attempts at flank movements, or any operations at all *within* the Republican lines.

But the grand feature of the *Herald* plan distinguishes it from both these. Not only is the Chicago platform, that sunk the Democratic party itself to be sunk, and a new one to be constructed out of Republican materials, but the Gen. MCCLELLAN of the Chicago platform is to be raised from the depths to which he sunk with it, and to be placed in command of the new structure This is original—either a span new element in party politics, or a horribly cruel way of poking fun at the Democrats—the latter, we suspect. The Manhattan club must sift the case for themselves.

CANALS LOOKING UP.

Pennsylvania canals, once a wonder, a convenience and a source of profit, now, mainly are not in the ascendant of public repute. Yet, the canals that we have in operation are probably doing a good business. Our "main line," had not a penny-wise policy dried it up, would at this day be doing more business than ever before. But it is of distant Western canals, or rather canal projects, that we designed to speak.

The people in the Western States seem to be hampered by the very abundance of their products, and complain of the want of available means for transporting them to the seaboard for a market. Conventions are held to devise a remedy. The project of a canal from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi—not a new one we believe—is under discussion, as well as one for a short-cut between Lakes Michigan and Erie. And strong desires are expressed for an American canal between the latter and Lake Ontario. A project is also under consideration in Canada, for canal navigation from the Georgian Bay to Lake Ontario. This would, for our Northwestern people, be the best cut-off of all, for their water communication with the Atlantic.

All this seems to be good way off, both in time, should it ever be effected, and in distance. But still, the proposition is suggestive, and the reasons supporting the proposal for these works, gives form and shape to the suggestions. The embarrassment of the Western producers arises from the cost of transportation. It operates, they say, to the disadvantage of every Western interest, and they must have relief by cheaper transportation. On water transportation they cannot fall back, because of distance, and especially the barrier at Niagara, relieved only by the precarious aid of a canal under the control of a foreign nation.

These aspirations of the Western and Northwestern regions appear to be developing themselves into the form of resolves. These Conventions look like it. Should they become undertakings, instead of projects, it would be too late to stop them, and of course too late to avert the losses which the immense diversions of trade and transportation to other channels would inevitably entail on the lines of present transit.

We shall await the proceedings of the Conventions, and Boards of Trades with much interest.

A CHANGE.

When the proceedings of the Philadelphia Convention—justly termed, by TRAIN in a letter to the President, "your Convention"—were rehearsed by a committee to Mr. JOHNSON, he pronounced on them the most lofty praise. Language seemed inadequate to the occasion, and tears came to the rescue. The address and resolutions were called "inspired," "a declaration of principles more important than any made since 1787," "equal to the Declaration of Independence," "a second Declaration of Independence," "a second Proclamation of Emancipation of the people of the United States."

Four months have scarcely passed over, the Convention is more than half forgotten, its proceedings are as though they had not been, and the whole affair finds none, even of its members, "so poor as to do it reverence." It is one of the best, plainest and severest lessons to politicians who undertake to manufacture parties for their own ends. And it is a new evidence of the intelligence, reliableness and correctness of the judgment of the people of this country on the politics of the times.

A POOR EXCUSE is generally thought better than none, and hence, doubtless, the pretense of the Southern Legislatures, that their hostility to the Constitutional Amendment was because of the absence of any assurance from Congress that its adoption would secure their admission. Its adoption in form, without acting in its true spirit and returning loyal representatives, would not, doubtless, in any event secure the end desired. But if Congress really intends to rest on the single issue of its acceptance, as made in the late elections, there seems to be no serious objections to Mr. SPALDING'S resolution adopted by the House, directing the Reconstruction Committee to inquire into the expediency of preparing a joint resolution declaratory of the purpose of Congress to admit the Southern States on the ratification of the Constitutional Amendment. Such a declaration would deprive the South of any further excuse.

PRESSURE AND PERSUASION.

It was Mr. SEWARD, we believe, who used these terms, as expressive of the proper policy to be employed in bringing the insurrectionary States and people out of the slough of guilt and despondency into which they had drought themselves by their rebellion. This was before the Conservative party and movement, so called, were invented. It was probably before any scheme of that kind had begun to spread its misty clouds before the Secretary's mind, to obscure or distract his view of the policy that was suggested by the obvious necessities of the case. At that time, the mind of the Southern people was in a state of such subdued passivity and meekness, that only pressure and persuasion of the gentlest sort seemed requisite to all the purposes of the situation. Permission to resume their place in the Union, on almost any terms, would, if appearance could be relied on, have been satisfactory to the beaten and terrified leaders of the rebellion, the same apprehensions of personal danger being in the minds of those who could not fly from the country as of those who did.

All this was changed by the Conservative movement. This allayed their fears and, as was natural, excited the most puerile and extravagant hopes. It does not take much to make persons in their forlorn condition and of their traditionary conceit, extravagant in their anticipations. They did their part thoroughly, as outside members of the Conservative party, towards totally frustrating all the designs of that extemporaneous organization, and reducing their own wild hopes to their true position as silly dreams. But with the loss, they have not regained the hopeful and practicable tone of mind in which they were before they became intoxicated by sniffing the Conservative ether.

The consequence is such as might easily have been foreseen, had not the view been hemmed in by narrow party and sectional arrangements. The era of pressure and persuasion necessarily recurs, and recurs, under circumstances that render pressure the more prominent of the two agencies. It is almost demonstrated by all the wants especially by those connected with more recent political affairs, that the late rebels have recognized no other mode or order of decision of the rebellion than that of power. And there is some indication that the unwise prominence given in the conservative spasm in their behalf, to persuasion, may render the application of pressure, in bringing them to the proper position, more decisive than it would otherwise have needed to be. It is some ground of congratulation, however, that civil rather than military pressure, that legislation instead of war, is the agency that applies it with good prospect of success.

THE FENIANS—STATE OF IRELAND.

An interesting, but really unimportant, dispute exists among several New York journals and foreign correspondents, as to the whereabouts of Head Center STEPHENS. Certain parties insist that he has recently been seen in New York, occasionally "it is said" he is in Paris, but the most recent rumor has located him in London. If he finally gets to Ireland he will be considered a wonderful fellow, by those excitable people who are as much moved by personal adventures, as the graver projects of revolution. Many judicious people who have no particular affection for England, yet believe that it would be a good thing for Ireland, if STEPHENS should be prevented from entering it. His career thus far, however romantic, has only been productive of mischief, by arousing English vigilance, and increasing Irish disabilities and penalties. Buncomb resolves read pleasantly enough on this side, but only cruel and desperate persons will advise for Irish wrongs, a trial of conclusions between an unorganized and half armed peasantry and the British army. The odds are overwhelming against the people, and are daily increasing. Every uprising in Ireland since that of '98—the only respectable show of resistance known in its history, is a warning against STEPHENS and all other self-constituted leaders of impracticable schemes for Irish independence. All the late accounts from Ireland show that the anticipated arrival of STEPHENS is the occasion of alarm equally among his friends and foes. Poor, deluded people, he has come to retire at night, business is generally suspended, landlords are turning their dwellings into fortified castles, and arming their relatives and domestics, while troops and constabulary swarm over the country, and all on account of Head Center STEPHENS, who seems to have noinfluence except for evil.

THE bill of Mr. JULIAN, in the House of Representatives, remanding the insurgent States to the condition of territories, and disfranchising all save loyal men, should awaken the Southern people to an idea of what may be the consequences of resisting the just and lenient terms now offered to them in the Amendment. While to-day the popular demand may not be Mr. JULIAN'S bill, it is nevertheless entirely true, that in this matter, as in revolutions, public opinion and legislative action will not go backward. Should the Southern States, by stubborn persistence in the ways and purposes in which there has been a steady progress during the short period subsequent to the fall of Richmond, prove the existence of the necessity for remanding them to the territorial condition, they should not delude themselves that they can escape. Whatever cure the development of the disease shall show to be necessary, will be applied. Congress, instructed by public opinion, will not hesitate to act. Mr. JULIAN'S bill may be wiser as anticipation of the possible condition of things than as applicable to what actually is. Its introduction should be a warning to those to whom it relates.

THE French Emperor appears to be contracting his views. We say, appears to be, for we do not venture to go beyond that in relation to his policy. He is calling home his troops, from Rome and from Mexico, and seems tired of trying to hold up a weak and useless government in the one, and to build up an arbitrary and intrusive one in the other. The reign of this NAPOLEON in France has been, on the whole, a wise and good one for the people of that country. His considerate enterprises have not been so fortunate. Perhaps he is going to devote the remainder of his life to domestic government—of his Empire, we mean chiefly—for the aggrandisement of France, which, we must say, needs a little rousing up. If he would do somewhat more, and persuade his accomplished conjugal consort to do somewhat less, his advanced years would be the happier, and the prospects of the Prince Imperial and the French people, the brighter.

SERRATT is destined to be again a conspicuous name in the public eye. The discovery and arrest of JOHN SURRATT brings it up in painful connection with the crime which, twenty months ago, threw our entire nation into mourning. His last hiding place was deep and remote, his other hiding places while flying from justice were such as are not supposed to be refuges for criminals, yet his flight and his changes and his disguises and his concealments have not saved him from detection. AS DANIEL WEBSTER said to the jury on the trial of a murderer, who committed the deed thinking no eye was upon him, "Ah, gentlemen, there was the prisoner's mistake, &c." The Omniscient cannot be deceived, the Almighty cannot be eluded. The story of the pursuit, discovery and capture of this fugitive—embracing a year and eight months of time and thousands of miles of distance, is full of interest. The sequel, with its developments, will be still more so, reviving old griefs, and, perhaps, exposing half forgotten complications of the horrid crime.

A RALLY is made in the right quarter, to save "the good old stock of Virginia" from running out in these hard times. We cannot but be amused by the frequent struggles and protest against such a destiny of one of that highly respectable and far-famed race. One of his latest utterances on this behalf is particularly splendiferous, and places the *Times* editor fully on a level with the Hon. J. ROGERS, a sample of whose eloquence adorned the columns of the COMMERCIAL yesterday morning, as it had entertained his Congressional hearers, the day before. The eloquent plea of the *Times* for the true Virginian closes in the following strain and style:

"A thousand years of war may roll over us; earthquakes may shake down our mountains and swallow up our dry land; floods may dash their wild waves over the places of our abode, but as long as there floats a true son of the Old Dominion upon a plank of the wreck he will be a Virginian still."

NEXT in order will be the veto of Mr. JOHNSON on the District of Columbia Suffrage Bill. It may be looked for very shortly—and the passage of the bill in both houses over the same.

THE TARIFF AND WOOLEN INTERESTS.

The country awaits with intense anxiety a report from the House Tariff Committee which sits during the holiday adjournment. Our productive industries which have been suffering over since the refusal of the Senate to concur with the House tariff bill of July last, have now become so prostrated, that unless increased tariff protection, is soon afforded, the Government can neither hope to secure its expected internal revenue, nor to obviate a general collapse in which public and private credit will be common sufferers.

The woolen interest is especially depressed. How could it be otherwise, when the raw material, taxed for internal revenue and again taxed by the high price of skilled labor, is taxed over in the manufactured fabric, and then put into competition with the foreign article? We have opened a market during the present year for $67,087,967 of foreign wool and woolen goods, against an average annual importation for the twenty years preceding 1862, of only $19,600,000!

The New England mills are generally running on half time, and several large knitting mills at Cohoes, New York, and other points through that State, have stopped, and others are what is called "running out." The stoppage of the Cohoes Mills will throw twenty-five hundred hands and $1,500,000 capital out of employment. Aggregate the result in a few manufacturing centres of the country, and we have a sum total of business depression and personal suffering, fearful to think of. There is no other civilized government so careless about protecting its industries as ours. Europeans jealously exclude whatever conflicts with their home industries, while our legislators too often listen to the sophistries and persuasions of importers and free trade theorists. We have not had such a prostration of the woolen interest since 1857, and all because of the Senate's neglect to do in time, what must ultimately be done—advance the tariff. Congress must be made to feel a pressure of public sentiment in this matter, which will secure *immediate relief* to our languishing industries.

WE observe that some person in the South is flattering the sectionalism of the people there with a set of school books that are pronounced "purely Southern." They are recommended as "entirely Southern home productions." A. MR. STERLING is the author, probably second cousin, at the farthest, to the London one, has prompted him to make a trifle out of the sectional prejudice. We are glad the youngsters have got the books for what good they may get out of them. But if they teach Southern politics or Southern pronunciation, the only two things in which Southern people differ from others, and both owing to the darkies, we think the old school books that teach no politics and a correct pronunciation, would be better for them.

THE new tariff bill—the result of the investigations and inquiries of Mr. WELLS—is as much in the free trade interest as anything. The rates proposed, compared with the present ones, show that the changes are not with the view of affording protection to American interests, because importers are specially favored, as against home producers. In some sort it re enacts some of the most objectionable features of the abrogated Reciprocity Treaty. The getting up of the bill, is clear, would have gone further in the interest of foreign manufacturers and the importers, had they dared to do so. We believe they have gone so far that they stand no chance of succeeding. Congress will have more regard for public sentiment and the welfare of the country than they.

THERE is reason to believe that the Southern Governors and leading men in the South are consulting among themselves as to the course to be taken, in other words, what is necessary to do to stay the uplifted arm of the people, acting through their representatives in Congress. The South is in a position resembling that of LEE in Richmond when GRANT was closing around him. The problem with which he had to deal then was solved by surrendering. Had he not done so he would have fared worse. General GRANT tells the South now that if they do not accept the Amendment they will fare worse. Perhaps they think so too.

MR. ROBERTS is the Fenian President in this country. Col. LYNCH is a Fenian prisoner under sentence of death in Canada. The former has written a letter to the latter, wherein he informs him that he regrets that he is compelled to believe that he "will not be hanged," the "regret" being based on the belief that the hanging of the prisoner would lead to the conquest of Canada. Whether Col. LYNCH'S devotion to the cause goes as far as that of President ROBERTS is not known.

IT is asserted on intelligent authority, that the changes made in the Revenue Department to satisfy the demands and necessities of Johnsonism, have lost to the Treasury more millions of dollars than Mr. MCCULLOCH would like to compute in a public statement. Probably in no one thing has the President's course exerted so baleful an influence as this. Herein, in some sort at least, is the key to the falling off in the receipts of revenue of late to be found.

SEVERAL of the New York banks are considerably short of the 25 per cent. of legal tender reserve which they are required by law to keep on hand. The Committee on Banking favor Secretary MCCULLOCH'S recommendation to enforce general redemption at New York. If we are to have such a power invested in the New York banks, it is important that they set a good example, by making themselves strong in legal tenders.

SECRETARY STANTON has been spending several days in New York, the guest of Judge PIERPOINT, and the recipient of many attentions. He will return to Washington to-day. Those who fixed on the first of January as the date of his withdrawal from the Cabinet, do not, we believe, feel quite so confident as they did.

THE remark of Senator SHERMAN, a few days since, that while he held that if they accepted the Amendment the revolted States would be entitled to come in, but that if it was rejected he would be for reorganizing them on the basis of the loyal voters, is a terse expression of the average sentiment of the country. It may be safely accepted as indicating the tone of the majority in Congress.

SECRETARY MCCULLOCH will spend this week in New York, the guest of a Wall street broker. Wall street is unquestionably the financial hub of the country, but it is not the entire structure. There are other sources from which sound inspiration may be drawn, and we wish the Secretary would so think and act.

THE New York *Herald*, under the head, in capitals, "The Roman Question," gives but the following telegram: "An American frigate has arrived at Civita Vecchia." We can't see the connection. The place named is nearer to Rome than the arrival is to the Roman question.

SOLDIERS' ORPHANS SCHOOL.—An official statement of the number of Pennsylvania soldiers' and sailors' orphans ordered to be admitted to the different schools and educational institutions established up to December 12, 1866, shows that three thousand two hundred and ten of all ages were admitted. Of the more advanced pupils there were one thousand six hundred and sixty seven, of whom forty-four were admitted at the second at Dayton, Armstrong county; one hundred and thirty-five at North Sewickley, Beaver county; one hundred and thirty-two at Phillipsburg, Beaver county; and forty-three at Uniontown, Fayette county, in the western part of the State. The juvenile pupils, numbering one thousand five hundred and forty-three, were all admitted to schools in Philadelphia. Nearly all the pupils of the more juvenile schools have been examined, and are found to have made considerable progress. The Phillipsburg pupils deserve mention, among the larger institutions, for meritorious conduct. It is also proper to add that nearly all of the children appeared to be in a healthy condition.

THE Boston *Advertiser* thinks that "probably Mr. Cowan and many others besides were astonished to find nine Senators voting for his proposition to extend the right of suffrage to women in the District of Columbia." The *Advertiser* further remarks: "The nucleus of a strong party is there, even if circumstances for the time prevent the party from forming. Mr. Cowan intended to apply to the proposition for negro suffrage a *reductio ad absurdum*. In reply he received a demonstration which we strongly suspect he is very far from relishing."

ASSISTANT SECRETARY (of the Navy) FOX, who came passenger in the Scotia, and who has gone down East on a visit to his family previous to his return to Washington, speaks in glowing terms of the favorable impression the presence of the United States squadron in European waters has made upon people and governments there. He will shortly submit the result of his observations and experiences in that respect to Secretary WELLES.

PERSONAL.

—JOHN WILLIS, ninety years old, living in Nelson county, Va., is now on a deer hunt, sixty miles from home. Previous to this season he has always visited his hunting ground on foot, but this year, for the first time, rode in a railway car. He has more than a hundred descendants living.

—JOHN B. WELLER, once a Senator, Minister, Governor, of California memory, was recently engaged as one of the Attorneys in the prosecution of the investigation of the murder case of Dr. Robinson. He is located in Utah as a lawyer.

—Ex-President Buchanan has been spending a few days in Philadelphia. He converses freely on topics of general interest. Reference being made to the voluminous dispatches of Secretary Seward, Mr. Buchanan said that Seward had exceeded in this line all his predecessors collectively. He did not pretend to read them as sent to him officially, but depended upon the newspapers entirely to furnish the gist of what they contained. Mr. Lincoln's assassination he thought one of the greatest calamities that had ever befallen the country. He thought if Mr. Lincoln had lived the country would have been reunited, and based his opinion upon Mr. Lincoln's popularity and strength, which would have carried him successfully through any undertaking he might have attempted looking to that end.

—The St. Louis *Democrat* says of the late editor of the *Republican*, Mr. Nathaniel Pascall—whose death we have already announced: For forty years he has been one of the chief managers of what has been among the most influential papers of the country. His influence has been second to that of perhaps no other in building up the city of his residence, in developing the resources of his State, and in fashioning government and society in the West. To have made his way from a poor and unfriended printer boy to the prominent station that he occupied, is evidence alike of his good force of character, and of the generous nature of our institutions, that afford such opportunities. He was born in Knox county, Tennessee, in 1802.

—Miss Carmichael, the Utah poetess, has become the one wife of one husband, and gone to California to live.

—Rev. W. H. Milburn, the blind preacher, has been tendered a "complimentary benefit" in Chicago by prominent citizens, and will deliver his lecture on "Europe" in the Opera House on December 19.

—At St. John's Catholic Church, in Philadelphia, the funeral service was read over the remains of Augustin G. Yturbide, one of the sons of the unfortunate liberator of Mexico, who was made Emperor of that nation by its own choice, and within a short time afterwards executed under the many whimsical changes that occur among that people. This son, who has just been buried, was in his fifty-ninth year, and was a man of genial temper, somewhat inclined to conviviality, but nevertheless a man of considerable ability and intelligence. The family of which he was a member is well known in Philadelphia.

—General Roon, the Prussian Secretary of War, has been seriously ill in Switzerland. Where he spent some time on a leave of absence. Like Bismarck, he overworked himself during the last summer, and once was his life despaired of by his physicians. Those Ministers cannot stand these over-exertions as well as Secretaries Seward and Secretary Stanton. Roon is now in Weisbaden, and in a fair way of speedy recovery.

—Judge Nathaniel Holmes, of the Supreme Court of Missouri, and author of the "Authorship of Shakespeare," called by an Eastern critic "a judge of something or other in Missouri," from the discussion provoked by his work, produced in literary circles, seems to have made considerable of a reputation. The work is not, as many suppose, an effusion of the moment, but it was the particularity suggested by the Baconian's book. It is the work of Judge Holmes's lifetime; his pet scheme. For twenty years has he been revolving the theory of the authenticity of Shakspeare's works in his mind. Three separate journeys has he made to the East to consult libraries and books that would aid him in his theory, and the work was entirely written over seven times before it was sent to press.

—Mr. Keep, the new President of the New York Central Railroad, is a self-made man, who has had considerable railroad experience. He was for a long time Treasurer of the Michigan Southern Company. Many years ago, when he was a poor boy, he resided in Moline for a time, in Fargo, the Vice President elected with Mr. Keep, is too well known to need any special notice. His great administrative talent and business experience are recognized everywhere.

The success which has attended the operations of the American Express Company under his management, affords ample attestation of his ability.

—It is said that Nathaniel Hawthorn has left a valuable novel, no portion of which has been published, his widow hesitating to permit the publication on account of the light in which it points in it which he had marked for alteration.

—The Prince and Princess of Wales lately planted a couple of memorial trees, and the spectacle soon after out-Heroded Herod in commemorative sprigs—thereby exhibiting their loyalty and flunkyism.

—A late European letter says: Bismarck is expected back from Puthus at the beginning of the month. He has had several relapses, and is but slowly recovering his strength. It is even rumored that either Thiele or Savigny will for some time assume the duties, in addition to their own and responsible duties, in order to give him more time for recreation.

—Councillor Dryse, the inventor of the needle gun has been received in special audience by the King and Queen of Prussia, where he presented him an improved pattern, which fires sixteen shots in a minute. The King was exceedingly pleased with the new gun, and signified his intention of a special military commission to report on the advantages of the same. Before France shall have decided which gun ought to be introduced in the French army, the Prussian will certainly be ready for the field with a new improved gun. There is no relaxation in the War Department.

—Parrott, the gun man, was sued by Daniel Treadwell for an alleged infringement of a patent, which the latter secured for manufacturing of cannon with a wrought iron envelope. Judge CADWALADER, in the United States Circuit at New York, has decided that Treadwell has not the first, inventor, and the improvement on his suit against Parrott falls to the ground.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

A new Court House, to be as large as that in Chicago, and to cost $100,000, is now building in Detroit.

General Thomas and staff were to be in Nashville on Saturday. The *Banner* denounces the General and his staff as "Radical Abolitionized Whipple. It dislikes General Thomas because he did not set out with his native State, Virginia, into the rebellion.

The *Gazette de France* is the oldest newspaper extant. It is now in its two hundred and thirty-sixth year, and was already mature before the revolution of 1688.

The trustees of the Ohio Agricultural College met recently at Columbus, to consider proposals for the location of the College buildings.

Total assessable valuation of Ohio for 1866, $1,160,208,921. Total State and local and tax, $16,972. Divided among the 3,000,000 people of the State would be about $5.

The Illinois Soldiers' College and Military Academy, at Springfield, is likely to be taken by the State Legislature, as a college and home for disabled soldiers.

It seems that the emigration scheme at St. Louis for Venezuela is being gotten up by a number of rebels. They intend to colonize near the Orinoco river.

In the course of an article upon the subject of labor, the Charleston *Courier* states that the best plan for securing in South Carolina during the ensuing year will undoubtedly be that of paying wages to the colored people. Owing to the general failure of the crops, the value of farming lands will generally be worked on the share system.

Baltimore lives and moves. The sum of $253,510 has been paid for licenses (marriages, traders, &c.,) during the present year, against $6,815 in 1865, and the amount is $80,000 more than in 1862.

The large number of 253,111 emigrants arrived in New York for the year 1866 to December 12; total for the year will be about 240,000, a number not surpassed since the year of the Irish famine.

At Detroit, wires for an alarm telegraph upon the same model as that now used in Chicago, are being rapidly put up, upon poles, the wires being generally confined to alley-ways. When this work is completed, the Fire Department will probably be remodeled.

New York and Brooklyn have a united police force of 2,171. During the past year the arrests in New York were 79,688, and 21,967 in Brooklyn; total, 97,065.

The Nashville *Telegraph* warns the people of Tennessee against Yankee "school marms," Yankee preachers, and Yankee mechanics. It took some time to open friendly intercourse with Japan, and we may hope to succeed finally at the South.

They need a course of revivals in Cleveland, Ohio. At the recent term of the Cleveland Criminal Court twenty-six convicts were sentenced to the penitentiary—aggregate term of sentence, 108 years.

By the recent election of Henry Keep as President of the New York Central Railroad and Fargo as Vice-President, the corporation will cease to be, as heretofore, a Democratic influence.

The New York *World* says that Bishop Hopkins, during a recent trip through the South, did not hear a disloyal word spoken. This is the same witness who could not see any disloyalty in the South during the rebellion.

St. Louis is flooded with lottery circulars. We would just hint to the local editors of that large town that if they ever run short of the usual supply, Pittsburgh can send them a contribution.

The land which has been pre-empted at the land offices in Kansas this year amounts to 1,378,128 acres.

A new daily paper with a capital of $200,000 is projected in Milwaukee. A number of prominent business men are taking the matter in hand.

Chicago, Philadelphia and Boston are just now in trouble about their gas companies. In Chicago a recent large public meeting declared by resolution that the people through their municipal Government, should be authorized and enabled to furnish the gas needed.

General Grant has purchased 299 acres of land ten miles from St. Louis for $26,000.

Sir J. Michael, Commander-in-Chief of the Montreal forces, reports that the fortification of Montreal is impracticable except at great expense.

At a recent convention of western underwriters held in Chicago, a resolution was passed recommending the companies not to pay over twenty per cent. commission on risks. A resolution was passed recommending the adoption of a general policy, and that the same be used by insurance companies in the West. A resolution was passed requesting the several Legislatures to pass a law establishing insurance bureaus similar to those in New York.

THE FINANCIAL FUTURE.—It is thought that the Secretary of the Treasury will sell no more gold this month, and with about $40,000,000 currency in the sub-treasury, and the current receipts from internal revenue and customs, he will early meet all demands until the 15th of January, 1867, when the New York market will probably be more than abundant.

Letter from Secretary McCulloch.

The following letter written by Secretary MCCULLOCH will be read with a good degree of satisfaction. Had he gone a step farther, and added that he was keeping "the productive industry of the country in full exercise," by protecting it from the competition of the labor of foreign countries, the satisfaction would be still greater. The country will be glad to know that nothing sudden or impracticable, in the way of contraction, will be attempted, but that a gradual working back, without "collapse," to specie payment is the idea of the Secretary:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, December 7, 1866.

DEAR SIR: Your favor of the 4th instant is received. You will receive a copy of my report through the Comptroller of the Currency. It was very hastily written, but is, I think, sound in doctrine.

What we need is an increase of labor. If we could have the productive industry of the country in full exercise we could return to specie payments without any very large curtailment of United States notes. My object has been to keep the market steady and to work back to specie payments without a financial collapse. I shall act in the future as I have in the past, with great caution. I attempt no impracticable thing. I am, very truly yours,

H. MCCULLOCH.

Hon. E. G. Spaulding, Farmers' and Mechanics' National Bank, Buffalo, N. Y.

The Old School Presbyterian Church South.

The Old School Presbyterian Church South, which, like most of the other denominations in that section, was split up by the advent of the rebellion, rather conservative, has had its sense of justice to the colored people quickened by the wonderful revolution wrought in public sentiment, through the great Proclamation of Emancipation. The recent General Assembly at Memphis adopted a series of resolutions which place the Church in a beneficent and truly Christian relation to the freedmen. These resolutions regard any ecclesiastical separation of the two white and colored races as inexpedient, as dangerous to both, especially to the latter. Therefore, every warrantable effort should be affectionately made to dissuade the colored people from severing their connection with the white churches. It is also declared that the Word of God contains no prohibition of the introduction of persons, irrespective of color, if otherwise duly qualified, into the ministry, and the Presbytery recommends the free licensing of colored persons as preachers and commends the general organization of colored Sabbath schools and the extension of family and public worship among their households. The Assembly declares its earnest desire for the intellectual and moral improvement of the colored race. There is a strong hope for the future in the many overtures by the religious organizations South.

Evacuation of Rome.

The past week has added to the chronology of 1866 one of the most remarkable events of history. On Tuesday the French flag was hauled down from the Castle of St. Angelo, and the Pontifical flag run up in its place. After eighteen years of a protectorate, the French troops leave Rome, and with their departure ends substantially the temporal power of the Popes, who have ruled the city for thirteen centuries. If Napoleon is acting in good faith, and does not, under some petty pretext, again interfere, Rome will pass under the jurisdiction of Victor Emanuel, and the unification of Italy become a reality. Pio Nono knows that he is not a popular temporal sovereign, and will hardly trust himself unsupported to the Romans. Indeed it is reported that he has followed his protectors—the French—to the nearest seaport town. As the spiritual head of one hundred and fifty millions of people, we can cordially wish the Pontiff many years of happiness, but as Americans, believing in the right of the people to representative government, we cannot regret that circumstances are to give the Roman people an opport